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# The Daily Gamecock, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2012

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## Transfer rate rises at USC

### Bridge Program eases process for incoming students

Cassie Cope  
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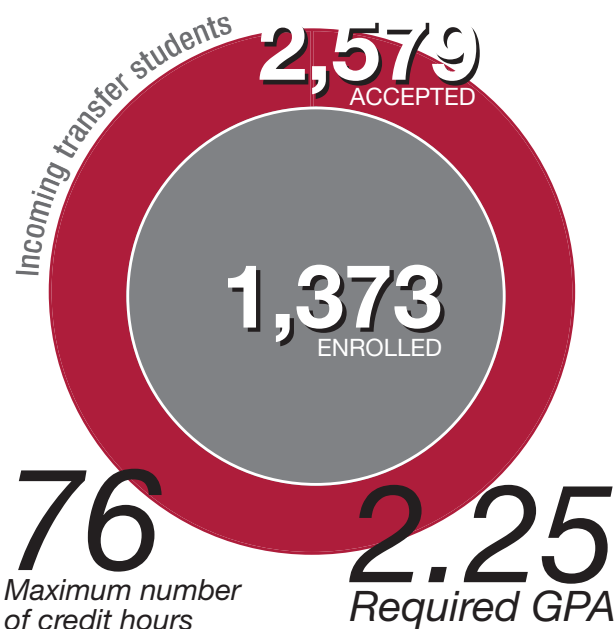
Ten percent more students transferred to USC last semester than in Fall 2010, according to Scott Verzyl, executive director of undergraduate admissions.

In Fall 2011, USC received 4,505 transfer applications and accepted 2,579 students, according to USC's institutional assessment and compliance office data. Verzyl said 1,373 students enrolled at USC. He added the USC Bridge Program has helped improve and streamline the transfer process.

"This is part of the reason why we have had an increase in new transfers the last few years," Verzyl said. "We are pleased with the success of our bridge program."

The South Carolina Technical College System created bridge programs to aid facilitation for transfer students. According to sctechsystem.com, students have two options for participating in bridge programs: They can be invited when they aren't accepted to the four-year institution, or they can apply to a technical college and choose to participate in one of the college's bridge programs. USC and Lander University are the only two colleges in South Carolina that offer bridge programs for all 16 technical colleges in the state. The USC

TRANSFERS ● 2



Most transfers came from Midlands Technical College.  
Paulina Olivares / The Daily Gamecock



## HOME-ALONE

### Two fraternity houses stand empty

#### Organizations seek to sublet vacated Greek Village buildings

Colin Campbell  
CCAMPBELL@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

Two fraternity houses in USC's Greek Village are currently empty, and in the next year, both could have new occupants.

Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity has vacated its house for the semester after hazing allegations removed all but 20 members of its USC chapter in November. Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity's house is also currently unoccupied due to the chapter's shutdown last month for what national representatives called "recent incidents, continued neglect of the property and a failure to self-govern."

Officials from both organizations are in

TRANSFERS ● 2



Devon Clarke / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

The Lambda Chi Alpha and Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity houses are currently unoccupied in the Greek Village.

## Website offers anonymity for violation reports

USC Integrity Line supplies 24-hour service for employees

Amanda Coyne  
NEWS@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

USC implemented a new "whistle-blower" website last month to help university employees more efficiently report internal violations of the law, university policies and state ethics guidelines, according to Chris Byrd, vice president of human resources.

The site, titled the USC Integrity Line, provides an online form where faculty and staff can report incidents anonymously, if they choose. The Integrity Line (sc.edu/uscintegrityline) is available "any time of the day or night" and is a "confidential website to discuss your concerns about questionable or unethical behavior."

While South Carolina has a law protecting government employees who report sexual harassment, including USC faculty and staff, this policy is a move by USC to "formalize the existing process," Byrd said. He added that the intention is also to make sure employees understand those protections.

"The new policy makes it more accessible to employees with any concerns," Chief Financial Officer Ed Walton said. "It lets people know we're accessible, whereas before, there was nothing that really showed an avenue to address concerns."

The USC Integrity Line encourages employees to talk to their supervisors first. Byrd said if this step is not an option, then they should report their concerns to other staff members who have authority, such as department heads, deans or other appropriate members of the USC administration. If an employee cannot report the incident to an authority figure, then he or she can do so through the site.

Before the new system was implemented, Walton said employees "would have taken any issues straight to the internal auditor instead of their direct supervisors."

When filed, reports will be submitted to Byrd and Walton as well as Director of Internal Audit Phil Iapalucci and the university's General Counsel.

Byrd is confident in the benefits of the new system.

"This system provides a secure place for an employee to report a serious workplace concern, should one ever arise," Byrd said. "It will also enable university administration to quickly review any reported concerns."

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#### WEATHER

Wednesday

69° 45°

Thursday

68° 37°

#### MIX



#### Blue Mountain

Country blues band Blue Mountain, featuring Cary Hudson, will play Conundrum Music Hall Thursday.

See page 8

#### VIEWPOINTS



#### School vouchers

Columnist Leia K. Cain thinks that educational vouchers will only hurt students in public education.

See page 5

#### SPORTS



#### USC falls to Vandy

The Gamecocks failed to perform on the court against the Commodores Tuesday, losing 57-67.

See page 10



**TRANSFERS • Continued from 1**

Bridge Program is designed for students who want to transfer after completing 30 hours at a technical college.

“Not everyone is ready or able to begin at USC as a freshman, so transferring after the first or second year of college is a viable option for many,” Verzyl said. “It is important that we offer more than one pathway to a Carolina degree as we fulfill our mission to educate the citizens of our state.”

In order to transfer to USC, a student must have attended a regionally accredited college or university, according to USC’s admissions website. The student must also have at least a cumulative 2.25 GPA. However, different programs may have higher standards. For example, business, nursing and pharmacy students must have at least a 3.0.

In addition, transfer students can have no more than 76 credit hours applied to degree credit.

Historically, most of the students transfer from Midlands Technical College. According to data provided by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education in 2010 the most transfers came from Midlands Technical College, with 378 students.


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 USC Delta Sigma Pi Spring 2012 Recruitment

# Huntsman to visit campus today

Presidential candidate Jon Huntsman, former Utah governor and United States Ambassador to China, will host a town hall meeting at 3 p.m. today in the Darla Moore School’s Business Hall of Fame on the eighth floor of the Business Administration Building. The rest of the 2012 Republican presidential candidates will be on Greene Street in front of the Russell House on Tuesday at 11 a.m.

— Compiled from staff reports

**HOUSES • Continued from 1**

negotiations to fill the two Lincoln Street houses by the fall, likely with other fraternities or sororities, but no official decisions have been made.

Lambda Chi Alpha’s USC chapter is no longer large enough to occupy its house, which is owned by the chapter’s local housing corporation. The corporation’s president, Jim Tothill, said while chapter members will not be living or eating meals at the house, they will still hold meetings and host spring recruitment activities there. He said the future of the house depends on several factors — chief among them, the number of new members recruited in the spring semester and the financial interests of the chapter.

“From the financial standpoint, it’s basically a business,” Tothill said. “It may be financially feasible for us to lease the house for a couple of years and let the chapter grow without the burden of having a house.”

Tothill said several organizations had approached him about leasing the property, but wouldn’t disclose which ones. He was adamant that whether it’s filled with Lambda Chi Alpha members or those of another organization, the house will not spend all of 2012 empty.

“The house will definitely be occupied,” he said, referring to plans for the fall semester. “Somebody’ll be living there full time.”

Sigma Phi Epsilon’s national fraternity owns the former chapter’s house, and outlined its plans in an emailed statement from the fraternity’s communications director Monday afternoon.

“Regarding the future of the Sigma Phi Epsilon facility at the University of South Carolina, we have not yet determined whether the house will be leased for the spring,” the statement said. “Our intention is to lease the facility as soon as possible to protect the investment of our alumni and

preserve this home for a future chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon at USC. With living space set aside for a resident scholar as well as a large library area, we expect this facility to attract significant interest.”

When asked more specifically about the plans, the fraternity’s spokeswoman declined to comment further. However, USC’s longtime Associate Vice President for Student Affairs Jerry Brewer pointed out that leasing the house during the current semester, when students have already moved into their places of living and are, in many cases, in the middle of yearlong leases, will likely prove futile.

“I’m sure they’d love to lease it out to anyone available,” Brewer said. “But how many people do you know who are in between leases, available to move in somewhere?”

The university allows Greek Village organizations to lease or sell the properties to other organizations or sell them to USC, but the university must approve the action to ensure it’s in the university’s interests.

Brewer said no such proposals had been submitted as of Monday evening.

“I can confirm we have gotten no requests from anyone at this point to lease their property,” he said.

Sigma Phi Epsilon has indicated that it plans to recolonize on campus by 2015, when all of the current members have graduated, USC Vice President for Student Affairs Dennis Pruitt told the board of trustees last month.

*Editor’s note: The reporter was once a member of Lambda Chi Alpha. He dropped his affiliation with the organization during the 2010-11 academic year.*

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# Authorities search for leads in Salty Nut Cafe arson

Investigators are still looking for leads on the person of interest in the Salty Nut Cafe arson fire of which the Columbia-Richland Fire Department was notified at 4:30 a.m. on Jan. 6.

Phil Hopewell, the general manager of Salty Nut Cafe, said an official estimate from the insurance company should arrive today. The fire spread because the building lacked a sprinkler system, according to Fire Chief Aubrey Jenkins. Hopewell said he will add a sprinkler system to the building after repairs if necessary. “The fact this was started maliciously changes our view,” Hopewell said about the added protection a sprinkler would have provided if the fire had been a kitchen fire. “When somebody deliberately wants to burn something down, they probably will, no matter what system you have in.”

Hopewell said he and authorities are looking at cameras around Five Points to look for the person of interest. Anyone who has a lead on the person in the photo can contact Hopewell through email, found on the Salty Nut Cafe website, or the arson hotline, which is posted on the outside of the building. a

Hopewell estimated it will be at least two months before the restaurant will be ready to open. South Carolina’s Department of Health and Environmental Control and the fire department will have to inspect the building, Hopewell said. He added that the arson caused fire, smoke and water damage.

“We look forward to reopen as soon as possible,” Hopewell said.

— Compiled by Cassie Cope, news editor



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Lower graduation rate raises tough questions

The four-year graduation rate for USC has dropped to 46 percent, begging the question of what has led to the drop-off and whether it's truly a negative representation of the university. The statistic itself may be misleading, as there is a plethora of factors that can be attributed to the decline of graduations in the traditional time frame.

“We as a student body need to know more ... and find out why fewer of us are able to graduate in the traditional four-year time frame.”

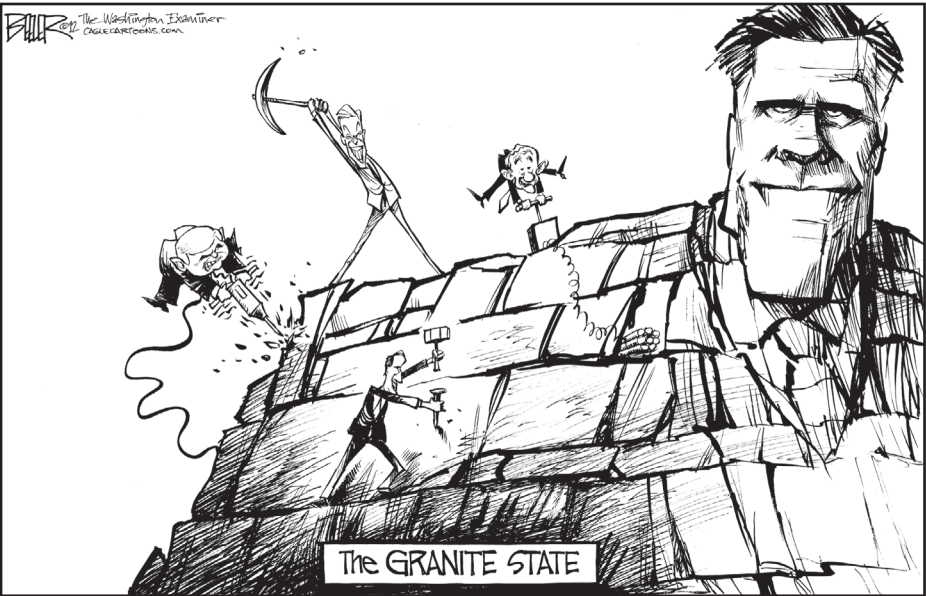
For one, the economy may be forcing students to take reduced hours, or no hours at all, in order to save money or defer payments to make ends meet. Many students use investment savings funds in order to cover tuition costs, so the severe market decline and subsequent lack of recovery could have wiped out the ability to pay. This would lead to many dropping school, not because of a lack of desire, drive or effort, but rather a sheer financial inability.

Also, there are seemingly more and more majors that are simply not possible to finish in four years taking the normal 15 credit hours, forcing students to stay an additional semester or two. This is especially true for those who don't come in with AP or IB credit hours, which are useful to gain credit for general education classes.

This may or may not be a good thing. Yes, an adequate curriculum is a must, but excess for the sake of extending a curriculum is counterintuitive and expensive.

Last, indecision as an undergraduate student can increase the time you need to complete a degree. It's difficult to stay on the four-year track and switch intended majors, especially if it's between different colleges.

There are bounds of reasons students don't graduate on time. The university needs to address each of them and find ways to make a four-year degree more realistic for more than 46 percent of us.



Educational vouchers wrong solution

Public school funding disparity gap widens

Education is a right extended to all children in the United States. When sending a child to a public school, there is no outright cost to the parent, as all costs are on the burden of the taxpayers. However, if families decide to send their children to private schools, tuition becomes the sole responsibility of the family. The education voucher system would end that, however, allowing families to choose the school, public or private, they wish their students to attend.

When attending a different school, the child would simply provide his or her voucher, allowing taxpayer money to be paid to the chosen institution. It's the sort of "vote with your feet" system many Americans tend to favor.

What this system fails to take into account is the apathetic attitudes of many American parents and guardians. What happens to the children who are left in bad schools with low funding due to the flight to "good" schools? Without adequate funding, resources aren't available for these children.

As a previous public school educator in a lower-income school, I've had my share of apathetic parents and low funding. We were not on a voucher system, instead, being underfunded due to low test scores. Our students often lacked novels that had all of their pages, relied on out-of-date textbooks and dealt with many other

hardships that a bit more funding money could have helped fix.

Utilizing the voucher system would impose low financial resources on many public schools, leaving the children who are stuck there to deal with the negative consequences. This system hurts more children than it helps.

For the families choosing to send their children to private school as opposed to another public school, the effect becomes the downfall to the public school system as we know it. Education has been drastically underfunded in the United States for an incredibly long time, and giving away even more of the money that schools do have will cause a much larger proportion of schools being closed.

If the issue rests on the fact that our public schools are failing, we should look to educational reform instead of closing even more schools. Yes, American students are lagging very far behind other nations, but are you really surprised? We give more money to the military than we do the children.

Defense of our freedom is very important, but so are the future leaders of the country who are studying right now. They will one day be making the decisions that affect our lives, and yet their education is second-rate. How can the United States continue to be a major world power when we are consistently ranked poorly in core subjects such as math and science?

Funding is absolutely necessary to get our students back on track. The voucher system would do nothing other than cause more failure for those students who will be permanently left behind.

Confederate flag controversy still prevalent in '12

Symbol of slavery has no place in state

This Monday, the NAACP will host the annual King Day at the Dome at the South Carolina Statehouse. This event is a response to the Confederate flag flying on the Statehouse grounds.

For many years the Confederate flag flew on the top of the Statehouse below the American flag and the South Carolina state flag. Many South Carolinians wished to have the flag removed from the Statehouse. In 2000, the government compromised, and the Confederate flag was moved from the top of the Statehouse to the front lawn behind a monument of a Confederate soldier. Since then, King Day at the Dome is an annual event.

Residents of the state of South Carolina need to recognize the harsh circumstances and time period that the Confederate flag represents. Some South Carolinians see the flag as a sign of Southern pride, but for minorities, it is a constant reminder of a time when they lacked freedom.

Part of the reason South Carolina seceded from the Union was because it was against the end to slavery. Essentially, the Confederate flag represents the desire to continue to practice slavery in South Carolina.

Although the flag is no longer flown with the two more important flags, the fact that it still flies in front of the Statehouse remains an issue. It is now 2012. No matter what South Carolinians wanted in the 1800s, the Confederacy lost the Civil War and slavery ended. All of the issues the flag represents are things of the past; therefore, the flag itself should be a thing of the past.



**Erin Lewis**  
Second-year English student

‘Big Three’ on the rise with new compacts

American automakers turn sights to improving small cars after bailout

America is finally starting to see the fruits of the controversial auto bailout. At the Detroit Auto Show this week Chrysler, Ford and General Motors are showing off their new cars and concepts to the world. Only this time, they're not trucks and SUVs.

Practicality, downsizing and fuel economy have taken the new-and-improved "Big Three" by storm. The large stages and expansive show floors formerly dominated by massive 5,000-pound tanks are littered with small, compact, fuel-efficient cars that are out to change the perception of the American auto industry.

And for the first time in a long time, it may actually work.

Previously, the majority of the Big Three's time and efforts were thrown into the most profitable vehicles, which just happened to be the large, bulky, inefficient trucks and SUVs. Whatever research and

development dollars were left over were sent to the compact car divisions.

The results were American-made compact cars that were more appealing as a heap of scrap metal than they were actual cars. Because of this, there's been an exodus out of the Big Three's cars (not trucks) and into foreign metal. For the past decade the American families against SUVs and trucks have been snapping up as many Japanese and Korean sedans and small cars they can get their hands on.

Sure, some ultrapatriotic folk would call this un-American, but the fact of the matter is there was a significant period of time when buying an American sedan or compact meant you were buying a pile of crap — and you probably had to pay more for it than a better Japanese or Korean equivalent.

Then the auto crisis of 2008 struck, and the federal government swooped in to save General Motors and Chrysler, while Ford was barely able

to make do on its own dime. It was at some point during that time the American auto companies realized they needed small cars to survive. So after years of retooling and redesigning, we finally get to see these new models.

Dodge announced the new Dart, a compact sedan. Ford announced the new Fusion, one variant a hybrid and another a plug-in electric vehicle. GM showed us another version of the Chevy Sonic as well as two concept cars that are small and fuel efficient, geared to appeal to a younger demographic.

Finally, it appears the people of the American auto industry finally get it. They get that with gas prices on the rise, more Americans will be looking to downsize. So, in order to remain viable, they need strong, appealing small cars.

So when you look at the auto bailout in this light, it appears to be quite the success. Sure, there are political and philosophical issues with bailing out massive corporations. But at the end of the day, the auto bailout appears to have succeeded.



**Kevin Burke**  
Fourth-year finance student

IT'S YOUR RIGHT

The goal of The Daily Gamecock's Viewpoints page is to stimulate discussion in the University of South Carolina community.

All published authors are expected to provide logical arguments to back their views.

The Daily Gamecock encourages readers to voice opinions and offers three methods of expression: letters to the editor, guest columns and feedback on dailygamecock.com.

Letters and guest columns should be submitted via email to gamecockeditor@sc.edu. Letters must be 200 to 300 words in length

and include the author's name, year in school and area of study.

We also invite student leaders and USC faculty members to submit guest columns. Columnists should keep submissions to about 500 words in length and include the author's name and position.

The editor reserves the right to edit and condense submissions for length and clarity, or not publish at all.

All submissions become the property of The Daily Gamecock and must conform to the legal standards of USC Student Media.

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# Daddy Lion spans decades in sound



## USC grad student plays Conundrum Wednesday

Chloe Gould  
CGOULD@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

It’s karaoke, but with an indie rock twist. College rock, infused with the heart of ’60s and ’70s greats, takes on a new, wildly diverse sound — full of high-tempo tracks that fit into the age of the psychedelic all the way through the ’90s.

Jeremy Joseph, who plays under the guise of Daddy Lion, has turned his gig into a one-man music scene. The Maryland-born songster has taken to the stage and studio as a solo performer, recording and playing all instruments that go into his music — which boils each of the decade’s trademark rockers down into a more contemporary rhythm. And Joseph, or Daddy Lion, will be performing at West Columbia’s Conundrum Music Hall tonight at 9.

Joseph, a philosophy graduate student at USC, is “a touchstone for music.” Although his music fits under a popular and cookie-cut genre, his interests reach far into the vinyl collections of the past.

“If I had to put a general heading, I’d go ‘indie rock,’” Joseph said. “But some songs remind people of covers from the ’70s, some from the ’90s. Ideally, everything would sound brand new, but that’s almost impossible these days.”

But he’s close. With Joseph’s personal music collection housing everything from Sonic Youth to

Joy Division to Pixies, his sound stays away from the bands that have defined the 2000s — with the exception of Modest Mouse and Deerhunter.

“Eighties post-punk is a big touchstone for me. But my music itself doesn’t sound post-punk,” Joseph said. “It’s poppy and less aggressive, but the influence is really reflected in the songwriting.”

It all centers on what Joseph calls the “jangle-y, indie rock, guitar kind of genre.”

But it’s Daddy Lion’s jack-of-all-trades ability that garners the attention with his knack for every instrument on the set list. Joseph lived in Washington, D.C., before moving to Columbia this summer for grad school and played with a band in the nation’s capital city. However, all of Daddy Lion’s recordings — the self-titled EP and upcoming full-length “Habitat” — and his shows in Columbia feature Joseph as a solo artist, playing the guitar, keyboard and drums with the vocals.

“It’s difficult working with a band. I write everything myself, I record everything myself and I’m extremely controlling over the recordings to the point of being just flat-out difficult to work with,” Joseph said.

And with his solo performances, Daddy Lion has been bringing his own recordings into his stage performances to preserve the full-band sound and experience.

“I have been doing, more or less, a karaoke version of myself,” Joseph said. “It’s not my long-term goal —

hopefully, I will have a backup band at some point — but as a short-term plan, it’s been working out well. People have really responded to it, probably because I put on a fairly energetic performance.”

Comparing himself to a 28-year-old Mick Jagger, Joseph fully embraces his guitar riffs and on-stage jam sessions. They’re what give him that added edge — those moves like Jagger.

Joseph has already had a taste of the signed life; he released Daddy Lion’s first EP on 24 Hour Service Station and is now contemplating releasing “Habitat” with the same label.

“It’s a trade-off,” Joseph said. “If you sell it, then you sell it. And it’s cool — you’re on a label. But way more people hear the music if it’s free and you can send it around yourself.”

Joseph has also been featured on NPR — and there’s a story behind it.

While

a n undergraduate student in St. Louis, he submitted his rough, garage recordings to then-reporter for local Riverfront Times, Ben Westhoff. Westhoff, who is now the music editor at LA

Weekly, remembered the student he’d featured in the regional paper years later and submitted him for the NPR plug.

It’s all about the connections. And now, Daddy Lion is alive and well with a tweaked ideal in mind.

“If all my dreams come true, I’d like to be a philosophy professor,” Joseph said. “I’d get summers off, and I could tour around the entire world. It’s definitely not impossible, so I have that going for me.”

Daddy Lion will be performing at Conundrum Music Hall tonight at 9 with Dolfish and Concrete Animals. Doors are at 8 p.m. and tickets are \$5.

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# TOP TEN ALBUMS OF 2011

*Strong single ladies, classic crooners release year’s most memorable music across industry’s favorite genres*

Kristyn Winch  
KWINCH@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

## “El Camino” — The Black Keys

Fresh off 2011 Grammy wins for their previous album “Brothers,” The Black Keys once again released a polished collection of raw, grungy rock ‘n’ roll (including the alternative radio hit, “Lonely Boy”) that pleased fans and will surely be major awards bait in the coming year. The band is touring in support of “El Camino” in 2012 and will make a stop at the Bojangles Coliseum in Charlotte on March 24.

## “21” — Adele

The young, British songstress with pipes like no other released her second album in February and made America cry with soulful ballads like “Someone Like You” and “Set Fire to the Rain.” While it was hard to escape Adele’s tunes on the radio, the singer canceled most of her American tour dates due to vocal problems. Get well soon, Adele!

## “Sweeter” — Gavin Degraw

While Gavin Degraw could have easily become a one-hit wonder, the singer’s third album is quite possibly his best yet. The singer/songwriter made the ladies swoon with the piano-driven radio single “Not Over You” and bared his angsty rock

star side on the title track. DeGraw toured with Train and Maroon 5 this summer and may hit the road again in 2012.

## “Torches” — Foster the People

With the band’s single “Pumped Up Kicks” being one of the most-played songs of the summer, Foster the People enjoyed the success of its top-selling debut album in 2011. A high-energy “Saturday Night Live” performance helped the band achieve stellar sales. The combination of the band’s electronica sounds and lead singer Mark Foster’s unique voice, Foster the People will no doubt continue to draw in new fans in the new year.

## “Duets II” — Tony Bennett and Various Artists

Although he’s in his 80s, Tony Bennett’s still got it. And on 2011’s “Duets II,” Bennett proved he can play the top 40 game, too. Pairing up with artists ranging from Queen Latifah to Willie Nelson, Bennett and friends released new versions of classics from “The American Songbook.” Standout moments include “The Lady Is a Tramp” with Lady Gaga, “Watch What Happens” with Natalie Cole and “One for My Baby (And One More for the Road)” with John Mayer.

## “Ceremonials” — Florence + the Machine

The fiery-haired singer released “Ceremonials”



Photos courtesy of MCT Campus



ALBUMS ● Continued from 5

around Halloween, a fitting time for an album filled with eerie undertones and howling vocals. Lead singer Florence Welch holds down the album with her powerhouse belting style and brought a bigger instrumental ensemble along for the ride on her second full-length disc, which includes radio singles “Shake It Off” and “What the Water Gave Me.”

“Turtleneck & Chain” — The Lonely Island

Andy Samberg and pals Akiva Schaffer and Jorma Taccone proved comedy and hip-hop go hand in hand with the release of The Lonely Island’s second album “Turtleneck & Chain” features “SNL” hits, including “The Creep” featuring Nicki Minaj and John Waters, the Michael Bolton–assisted “Jack Sparrow” and the group’s collaboration with Akon on “I Just Had Sex.” The Lonely Island is nominated for the 2012 Grammy award for Best Comedy Album.

“4” — Beyonce

The former Destiny’s Child singer proved she runs the world with the release of her fourth album, appropriately titled “4.” Boasting pop hits including “Run the World (Girls),” “Love on Top” and “Best Thing I Never Had,” Beyonce let listeners know she isn’t going anywhere. At the end of 2011, Beyonce and husband Jay-Z welcomed their first child into the world. Let’s hope that just because she’s a new mommy doesn’t mean she will stop putting out hot tracks.

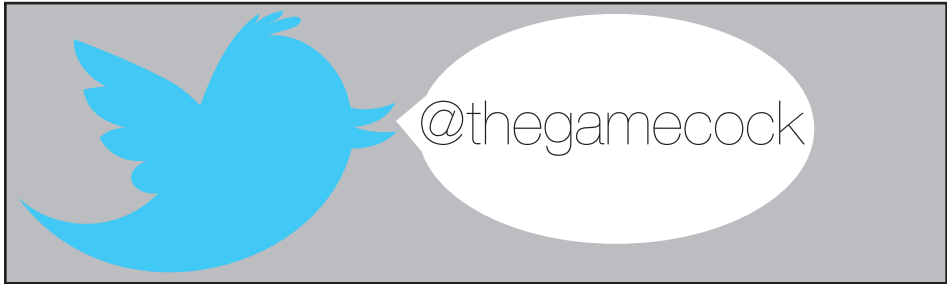
“Barton Hallow” — The Civil Wars

With a little bit of country and a little bit of rock ‘n’ roll, music duo The Civil Wars released their debut album “Barton Hallow” in 2011 to much critical acclaim. Drawing inspiration from the country greats of Nashville and reminding listeners of the successful collaboration between Robert Plant and Alison Krauss, it seems The Civil Wars have brought an original sound to the music industry and aren’t going away for a long time.

“Born This Way” — Lady Gaga

Mama Monster did it again. May 2011’s highly anticipated “Born This Way” gave birth to five hit radio singles, including the title track and Gaga’s latest single “Marry the Night.” The queen of controversy didn’t spare any expenses in creating elaborate music videos and jaw-dropping costumes. And even though some tracks may sound slightly ripped from Madonna’s discography, Gaga has remained a successful artist. Dates for the “Born This Way” tour are rumored to be released this week.

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# Blue Mountain perfects country punk

**Frontman Cary Hudson leads Mississippi band in Southern tour**

Kristyn Winch  
KWINCH@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

Music fans looking for a high-energy, multi-influenced show should check out Blue Mountain featuring Cary Hudson at Conundrum Music Hall Thursday.

Hudson, whose biggest musical influences include Bob Dylan, Neil Young and Muddy Waters, said the band's sound is a combination of multiple genres.

"It's a mix of country and blues with a bit of a punk edge to it," Hudson said.

Hudson has been performing for about 25 years. "I started playing guitar when I was 13," Hudson said.

After graduating from college with a psychology degree, Hudson said he chose to start a band instead of attending graduate school.

Hudson is Blue Mountain's lead singer, guitarist and primary songwriter. He released three solo albums, "The Phoenix," "Cool Breeze" and "Bittersweet Blues," during a Blue Mountain hiatus. In 2008, Gibson Magazine placed Hudson on of its list of Top 10 Alt-Country Guitarists of All Time, a list that also included Wilco's Jeff Tweedy and Luther Perkins, Johnny Cash's guitarist.

Blue Mountain was formed in Mississippi in the early '90s after Hudson's previous band, The Hilltops, dissolved. Blue Mountain has released eight albums since 1993. In addition to Hudson, the band's current lineup includes Jed Newell on drums and Laurie Stirratt on bass and harmony vocals. Stirratt's twin brother, John Stirratt, is the bass player for Wilco.

Hudson and Stirratt were married for 10 years and have been divorced for 10 years, Hudson said, and their relationship has remained amicable despite their separation.

"We've had a pretty successful relationship,"



Courtesy of MCE Photography

**Jed Newell, Laurie Stirratt and Cary Hudson (left to right) play as Blue Mountain, a Mississippi band with a country blues sound that includes a touch of punk. The group will play Conundrum Music Hall Thursday night.**

Hudson said. "(We) were best friends and we still are, and we love playing music together."

The band's most recent albums "Omnibus" and "Midnight in Mississippi" were released in 2008.

"We're back to work after a hiatus," Hudson said. "We're working on a new record."

Hudson said Blue Mountain aims to release its next album by the end of the year.

South Carolina is one of four stops on Blue Mountain's current Southern tour. The band will be playing at the Charleston Pour House on

Friday night.

Hudson said those who plan on going to tonight's show won't be disappointed.

"Expect a good, energetic rock 'n' roll show and maybe a joke or two," Hudson said.

The show time and price information have yet to be determined. Check the website for up-to-date details.

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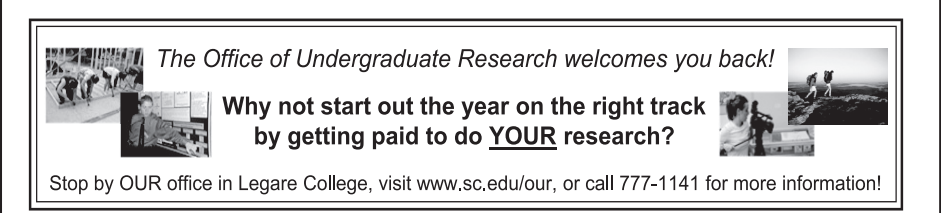
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## Sudoku

By The Mephram Group

01/11/12

			3		8		1	
6				9			2	
		3	2		4	6		
	1			8		9	6	
	4	2		5			7	
		6	5		7	4		
	3			2				6
	2		9		6			

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### Level

1 2 3 4

#### How to Play

Complete the grid so each row, column AND 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9.

#### Solution for 01/10/12

3	9	6	8	5	1	4	2	7
4	1	2	7	6	3	9	8	5
5	8	7	2	9	4	6	1	3
2	4	3	9	1	8	7	5	6
9	5	8	6	3	7	1	4	2
7	6	1	5	4	2	8	3	9
8	2	5	1	7	6	3	9	4
1	7	4	3	2	9	5	6	8
6	3	9	4	8	5	2	7	1

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## Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

01/11/12


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### ACROSS

1 Finish using TurboTax, say  
6 They have scales and keys  
10 Avon lady, e.g.?  
14 Pitch man?  
15 Little bit of everything  
16 Tip-top  
17 Latitude between the South Frigid Zone and South Temperate Zone  
20 Surfboard fin  
21 Native of Lima  
22 Novelist Kesey  
23 Hindquarters  
25 Arms treaty subjects, briefly  
27 Tried something out  
32 Cleaned one's plate  
33 Indian megalopolis  
34 Copious  
38 Agent under M  
40 Highways and byways  
42 Chimney sweepings  
43 Lipstick mishap  
45 Springs, in a way  
47 Ref's decision  
48 Test-drove, with "in"  
51 Environmental activist Jagger  
54 Copyeditor's catch, hopefully  
55 Commentator Coulter  
56 16th-century Spanish fleet  
60 Science fiction prize  
63 Macroeconomic theory to explain inflation  
66 Faded in the stretch  
67 Dust Bowl migrant  
68 Denoting a loss, as on a balance sheet  
69 Every twelve mos.  
70 Unites  
71 Napoleon, ultimately

### DOWN

1 Guesstimates at Maryland's BWI  
2 Name on a dictionary  
3 Involve oneself  
4 Roughly three miles  
5 Push the wrong button, e.g.  
6 Candlelight visitor?  
7 Et \_ : and others  
8 Trillionth: Pref.  
9 "You're not the only one!"  
10 Block  
11 Is way cool  
12 Coastal area  
13 "The Wonder Years" years  
18 Whirlybird  
19 Prefix with mural  
24 Near the center  
26 Shady group?  
27 Ties up the line  
28 Element element  
29 High, as a kite  
30 Quay  
31 Pitcher Nomo  
35 "Jeopardy!" category  
36 Mischief-making Norse god  
37 Henry VI's school  
39 "Rosy-fingered"

### Solutions from 01/10/12

G	U	L	F		J	U	A	N		P	R	I	S	M
U	T	I	L		A	N	T	I		I	O	N	I	C
C	U	B	A		I	C	O	N		C	A	K	E	S
C	R	Y	S	T	A	L	P	A	L	A	C	E		
I	N	A	H	O	L	E		A	S	H	R	A	M	
	B	O	A		A	W	N	S		A	M	O		
P	I	M	A		I	D	L	E	G	O	S	S	I	P
E	D	I	C	T	A	P	R		S	C	E	N	E	
R	O	C	K	A	N	T	H	E	M	A	R	O	D	
C	T	R		I	L	E	A		A	R	T			
H	O	O	P	L	E		G	R	A	T	I	A	S	
	S	H	O	R	T		S	U	B	J	E	C	T	S
C	H	O	I	R		I	N	T	L		R	O	E	G
R	I	F	L	E		E	A	S	E		E	M	I	T
O	C	T	A	D		S	P	Y	S		D	E	N	S

time of day, per Homer  
41 "Counting Sheep" mattresses  
44 Postgame rundown  
46 "I just had an idea!"  
49 \_\_\_-minded  
50 Egyptian with a riddle  
51 Like some limericks  
52 "... the bombs bursting \_\_\_..."  
53 California pro

57 Karaoke prop  
58 Stomach product  
59 Unenviable grades  
61 Highlands native  
62 Merrie \_\_\_ England  
64 Joseph of ice cream fame  
65 Diner dessert

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Lee Walker / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Damontre Harris had a double-double in the Gamecocks' 57-67 loss to the Vanderbilt Commodores, which marks a 0-2 start in SEC play.

# Basketball team falls to Vanderbilt

Low-scoring first half dooms Gamecocks in SEC home opener

Isabelle Khurshudyan

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With 10 seconds left in the SEC home opener against Vanderbilt, South Carolina’s Bruce Ellington nailed a 3-pointer from the top of the key.

It was a cruel irony, as the shot was too little too late for one of USC’s worst shooting nights of the season, as the Gamecocks lost 57-67 to the Commodores.

The offense for the Gamecocks never got going, starting 1-for-6 less than five minutes into the game, with three of those shots being 3-pointer attempts. It got worse throughout the night, as USC finished 4-for-13 from beyond the arc.

Scoring only 12 points in the first half, the Gamecocks shot 19.2 percent from the field, as opposed to Vandy, which shot 53.3 percent, but only trailed the Commodores by 10. The score was kept moderately close largely because of Vanderbilt’s 11 turnovers.

“I thought we were in really good shape,” said USC coach Darrin Horn of the game at halftime. “Obviously, it was a 10-point deficit, but we held their top two scorers to five points and had the game in the kind of game we needed it to be to give ourselves the chance we needed to win the basketball game, but in the second half, they scored way too easy.”

Vandy was able to make adjustments and create greater separation coming out of halftime, eliminating the mishandling errors in the first half and nailing five 3-pointers to open the second half, while the Gamecocks were stunted defensively, something that was a high point in the first half.

“Take care of the ball and rebound, which were the same things I talked about for the two days prior to the game,” said Vanderbilt coach Kevin Stallings of the halftime message to the team. “Take care of the ball and rebound and

take away their 3-pointers, which we did a very good job of in the first half.”

While the Commodores came out strong in the second half, the script only slightly changed for USC, as the Gamecocks finished with a 41.5 shooting percentage after shooting 63 percent in the second half, but again, the second half effort was too little too late.

“(In the first half) there were so many times when, if we didn’t have something initially, we just kind of stood around and held the ball,” Horn said. “We didn’t do that in the second half. We continued to drive the basketball and get it in the paint. We got in the bonus and did some good things, but we didn’t do that in the first half.”

Lost in the game was the performance of Damontre Harris, who had his first double-double of the season, finishing with 11 points and 10 rebounds. For Horn, Harris’ development in the season is a positive from the loss.

“I think Damontre Harris was tremendous tonight against a potential NBA draft pick, having a double-double, being incredibly active, and did a lot of positive things,” Horn said. “He continues to show consistency and get better. When you look down the column, there’s some things that aren’t as positive from individuals.”

With the Gamecocks out to a 0-2 start in SEC play and Florida looming on Saturday, keeping the confidence up on the team is important to rebounding from the losses in conference play, but Horn doesn’t see confidence as something that fosters from wins, but improvement.

“Confidence comes from working hard and not having success just in winning but doing what you need to do well to be your best,” Horn said. “If we don’t stay focused on getting better, our next day out and our next game out, we can’t start looking down the road and playing ‘what ifs.’ We’ve got to keep getting better.”

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## Tennis in action this weekend

*Gamecocks travel to Lexington, Ky., for SEC Indoor Championships*

Chris Stanley

SPORTS@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

The South Carolina men’s tennis players will get one last shot to show off their individual talents at the SEC Indoor Championships in Lexington, Ky., this weekend.

This will be the last individual’s event before team match play starts next weekend.

“As far as individual tournaments go, this is the next best thing to the All-American Championships or NCAA championships,” said coach Josh Goffi. “The SEC is such a strong field to play in.”

The SEC Indoor Championships will be a 64-man draw with a 32-man doubles draw among the top eight teams in a strong SEC field. National powers such as No. 4 Georgia, No. 7 Kentucky and No. 8 Florida will be present to showcase their top players before team play begins.

“Going to these events gives us a good idea of how a new guy will react to playing someone outside of practice,” Goffi said. “It’s also a good opportunity for all our freshmen to see who they’ll be matching up against during the regular season.”

In South Carolina’s case, the team will be working from the ground up. Ranked at the bottom of the tournament and coming off a 6-18 record last season, this event will be a test for a young squad looking to make a name for itself in a conference that has seven teams ranked in the top 25 coming into this season.

“This gives our players an opportunity to focus on themselves individually and let them have some fun with that,” Goffi said. “When the team play comes around, all of their focus will be towards the team and nothing about the individual.”

While some of the top players in the country will be in attendance, USC boasts headliners of its own. Senior Ivan Machado is coming off a strong performance in the ITA Carolinas Regional, earning rankings in both singles and doubles. Sophomore Nick Jones is the highest ranked Gamecock at No. 14, and Machado is ranked No. 17. Furthermore, Machado and freshman Carl Eguez are the No. 9 doubles tandem in the region.

“This year we’re looking for our sophomores to step up into their leadership positions,” Goffi said. “They have the year of experience, and all of our freshmen can benefit from their know-how.”

The upcoming season will prove to be an interesting one for the Gamecocks, as the team has four freshmen on a nine-man roster; however, the freshman class was the No. 3 recruiting class in the country, a class Goffi described as “hungry” and “ready to get their feet wet.” They’ll get that chance in Kentucky.

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South Carolina received welcome news Tuesday morning as the Gamecocks were ranked in the top 10 for the first time in school history. South Carolina is ranked No. 9 in the final Associated Press poll and No. 8 in the final USA Today Coaches’ poll.

The previous highest ranking was following the 1984 season, when USC was ranked No. 11. The Gamecocks have finished ranked in the top 25 in back-to-back seasons for the first time since 2000 and 2001.

“This is another ‘first’ that we’re proud of — another goal reached,” said coach Steve Spurrier of the squad’s first top 10 finish in a release. “There’s still some room higher than that, and we’ll shoot for that next year.”

For center T.J. Johnson, the ranking is just another example of how the 2011 squad will ultimately be remembered.

“It’s an incredible feeling to be known as the best team in South Carolina history,” Johnson said in a release. “That’s what we came here to do, and it shows that all of our hard work is paying off.”

— Compiled from staff reports